NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)

Agenda
December 5, 2019
8:00 a.m.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Room 211
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas

ROLL CALL: **Nicola Opfer, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair)**
Anthony Martinez, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Vice Chair)
Tamara Guinn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Secretary)
Melanie Dodson, Great Basin College, SGA
Daniel Gutierrez, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN
Benjamin Miller, Western Nevada College, ASWN
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

In accordance with NRS 241.020(6), supporting materials that are submitted to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Office of Academic and Student Affairs will be made available in advance of the meeting as follows: 1) from the NSHE Office of Academic and Student Affairs by calling Terina Caserto at (775) 784-3442 or emailing her at tcaserto@nshe.nevada.edu or, 2) by accessing the electronic version of the agenda posted on the NSA page of the NSHE website:

https://nshe.nevada.edu/administration/academics-student-affairs/students/nevada-student-alliance/

In addition, a limited number of copies of any such supporting materials will be available at the meeting site.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically disabled persons attending the meeting. Please call the Academic & Student Affairs Office in advance at (775) 784-3442 or (775) 784-3225 so that arrangements may be made.

1. ROLL CALL

NSA Secretary Tamara Guinn will take roll call of members and circulate a sign-in sheet for guests so their names may be recorded in the minutes.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT **INFORMATION**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The NSA Chair may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the NSA Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the NSA, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Request is made for the approval of the minutes for the NSA meetings held on November 8, 2019.

4. WELCOME TO NEW NSA MEMBERS **INFORMATION**

Chair Nicola Opfer will welcome the two newest members of the Nevada Student Alliance, from Great Basin College (Melanie Dodson) and Western Nevada College (Benjamin Miller). In addition, new and existing members will be asked to introduce themselves and talk about their goals and planned activities during their year in office.

5. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PARTICIPATION **INFORMATION**

Chair Nicola Opfer will solicit feedback from NSA members regarding the opportunities and challenges on their campuses for undocumented students wanting to participate in student government associations.

6. MEMBER REPORTS **INFORMATION**

NSA members will each be invited to provide an update on current and planned events, initiatives and other activities or actions taking place on their campuses and within their student government organizations.

7. NSA CHAIR'S REPORT **INFORMATION**

Chair Nicola Opfer will discuss with the Alliance the contents of the Chair's Report that will be delivered to the Board of Regents later the same day (on December 5, 2019).

8. NEW BUSINESS **INFORMATION**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under "New Business" is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT **INFORMATION**

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Posted in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241) at the following locations:
CSN, Building D, 1st Floor, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146-1124
DRI, Maxey Building, 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512-1095
DRI, Southern Nevada Science Center, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7363
GBC, Berg Hall, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, NV 89801
NSC, Great Hall, 1125 Nevada State Drive, Henderson, NV 89015
TMCC, Red Mountain Building (RDMT 200) 7000 Dandini Blvd. Reno, NV 89512
UNLV, Flora Dungan Humanities 9 (FDH), 1st and 7th Floors, 4505 Marlyand Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001
UNR, Clark Administration, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557
WNC, Bristlecone Building Lobby, 2201 W. College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703
System Administration, 4300 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530
System Administration, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
Nevada Public Notice Website - https://notice.nv.gov

NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE (NSA)
MINUTES
November 11, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)
Reno System Administration Building, Room 134
2601 Enterprise Road

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
Carson City – WNC Dini 105
Elko – GBC LCSL 122
Henderson – NSC RSC 303
Las Vegas – CSN North Las Vegas Bldg C 2638 and NSHE System Admin 105

MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:06 AM BY NICOLA OPFER, NSA CHAIR

1. ROLL CALL: Nicola Opfer, Nevada State College, NSSA (NSA Chair) PRESENT
Anthony Martinez, University of Nevada, Reno, ASUN (NSA Vice Chair) ABSENT
Tamara Guinn, University of Nevada, Reno, GSA (NSA Secretary) PRESENT
Daniel Gutierrez, College of Southern Nevada, ASCSN PRESENT
Benjamin Miller, Western Nevada Collage, ASWN ABSENT
Hannah Patenaude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, CSUN PRESENT
Alexandra Patri, Truckee Meadows Community College, SGA PROXY
Stephanie Molina, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA ARRIVED 9:36AM
Melanie Dodson, Great Basin College, SGA ABSENT

Office Vacant, Desert Research Institute, GRAD

Guests:

Bryan Martin TMCC, Proxy for Patri
Andrew Alvarez, NSC
Terina Caserto, NSHE
Michael Flores, NSHE
Robert Lemus, NSC – Attending on behalf of Andrew Sierra
Chancellor Thomas Reilly, NSHE

A QUORUM OF MEMBERS IS PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

2. PUBLIC COMMENT **INFORMATION ONLY**

No public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Motion to approve minutes made by Gutierrez, seconded by Patenaude, unanimously approved.

4. WELCOME TO NEW NSA MEMBERS **INFORMATION ONLY**

No new members in attendance.

5. DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR **INFORMATION ONLY**

Chancellor Reilly opened the discussion with information regarding the upcoming Board of Regents Meeting on December 5th and 6th, 2019. NSHE has several searches going on for leadership positions. The UNLV President search has begun, looking at late March, 2020 for candidates. NSHE Chancellor search committee has been selected. The first meeting will be November 22nd, 2019, looking at April, 2020 for candidates. Recently, UNR President Johnson announced his resignation. We are looking at a potential search. NSHE is meeting with UNR faculty, staff, and students next Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 for input regarding interim or search options.

Chancellor Reilly continued the discussion with large items of interest for the upcoming BOR meeting. An item of discussion involving a decision to stay with NV Energy rather than leave the "grid". This decision will result in new money for NSHE, $1.5 million for the first 3 years then another $1 million for years 4 and 5 to stay with them. This will be new money and the main idea is to set it aside to further student success at the institutions, to target dollars for student success.

Presidential evaluations will also be an item of interest for NSA at the upcoming BOR meeting. These are evaluations that students are involved in. NSHE is currently attempting to standardize the survey previously developed by faculty. The previous format is problematic because it is all over the place so we are bringing in outside group to administer the survey and standardize responses. This will improve the process and lead to more consistency. The agency will train campus facilitators for each campus to help ask questions. Some of the required metrics would be progress toward goals that the Board has established.

Chancellor Reilly mentioned that this week there was a round table discussion with DACA students. This was very emotional. What was learned is that there are inconsistent responses at each institution and more information sharing for DACA students. Chancellor Reilly indicated that we need more information to and from the community. There is more we could be doing. Michael Flores indicated that we are going to be helping with DACA students moving forward.

An update will be given in the future on the foster youth waiver. So far 65 students have utilized the waiver statewide.

The 1st meeting of performance pay task force took place. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19th. A possible outcome of the meeting was to request clarification from legislature for the discretion of use of all available funds for faculty increases. This issue is a work in progress and it could also lead to requesting more flexibility in how institutions reward employees.

Chancellor Reilly also reported about the campus visits in October. Budget presentations at the various institutions were heard. At the December BOR meeting we will have a discussion of thematic issues and major concerns that were brought from campuses. NSHE will be seeking direction from the Board regarding student success, such as ratio of advisors to students (350-1 ratio), capacity enhancements, additional research support and deferred maintenance, to develop proposal for deferred maintenance emphasizing disability or life/health/safety issues. December will be priorities and March will be tasked out and then by June we will get the budget from the Governor.

Chancellor Reilly asked for questions.

Patenaude posed a question about the relationship with NV Energy, staying in vs leaving the grid.

Chancellor Reilly responded that we are allowed to exit the grid but there is a cost. NSHE has examined the relationship with stability of providers and philanthropic support we get from NV Energy. It is a win/win to work out savings and it just may not have been feasible for the system to leave.

Gutierrez asked a question regarding immigration issues and discussions that have been had, and how to help DACA students?

Chancellor Reilly encouraged members to contact Presidents. Ask how you can bring it forward. It seems like we can fix the issues. Flores added a remark to keep Chancellor Reilly in the loop with communication to see how NSHE can help.

Patenaude asked if we have heard about other student employment issues associated with DACA students?

Chancellor Reilly responded that, no, not at this point. He encouraged us to take concerns back to student groups and institutions.

6. UPDATE FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NSHE TASK FORCE ON PERFORMANCE PAY ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT **INFORMATION ONLY**

Robert Lemus was present to give report on behalf of Andrew Sierra.

Lemus discussed that at the last meeting an overview was given of the situation, the faculty compression issue. The task force is trying to find out where we can get money for performance pay.

On the subject, Lemus opened the discussion about using the new money from NV Energy to supplement the performance pay.

Guinn noted a concern regarding what the longevity of the funds is. Some questions need to be asked about where the money will continue to come from when the NV Energy money is depleted.

Patenaude stressed that we should be fighting for the State to support us, avoiding having a student fee increase to support the compression issue.

Gutierrez mentioned that he is leery of using student fees to support compression issue. There is a concern that students are serving as a "bailout" for the faculty and the schools. We need to exhaust all other measures before we provide more money from students.

Martin (TMCC) mentioned that faculty pay is a legitimate issue. Faculty are leaving. He mentioned that he would not say students should be the first approach for more funding. We need to exhaust all other approaches. But that performance pay can lead to student betterment through faculty.

Gutierrez discussed that people leave due to pay reasons and there is an argument that helping teachers helps students. One way could be providing more course sections would be a benefit, but if that does not happen then it would not be a fulfilling arrangement.

Patenaude discussed that yes, class offerings and class sections would be helpful, but it seems that the overall impact is a trickle down and it takes a long time for students to feel the impact. She further stressed that the state is responsible and needs to invest in higher education.

Opfer mentioned that longevity of funding is important. This is a state initiative and state investment so student fees should not be a last resort, we should not give them an option to use student fees at all.

Gutierrez modified his previous comment and clarified that he believes no additional money from students, we need to push the state for funding.

Opfer asked Lemus if this is good feedback?

Lemus indicated that yes, this is very helpful.

Guinn discussed another area of concern that at UNR colleges/programs have decided to implement is differential fees to cover faculty costs and other associated costs within programs. This is a concern as the most recent differential fee that was passed is $50 per credit. The proposal passed, but with hesitation because that is a large cost increase for students. Guinn noted that the concern is that what programs will consider this going forward if we do not use student fees to support the compression issue?

Martin (TMCC) asked how would differential fees be defined?

Guinn discussed how they have been defined and implemented at UNR. This item will be defined using the NSHE definition at an upcoming NSA meeting.

Opfer suggested that perhaps we can draft a resolution for clarity of fee use and how fees are used across institutions.

Patenaude commented that there is a project within UNLV now regarding how fees are used and transparency to show how fees are used and where they go. She agreed this is an issue that we should explore further.

Opfer stated that this will be brought up under new business for future discussion and possible resolution.

7. SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS ON CAMPUS **INFORMATION ONLY**

Opfer opened the floor for discussion regarding sustainability efforts on campuses.

Martin (TMCC) indicated that TMCC is using biodegradable utensils for SGA events, posting informational posters for campus showing what is recyclable, what is not recyclable.

Gutierrez mentioned that at CSN paper recycling has been brought back in the student unions and throughout school. The issue is that people are still putting trash in the paper bins. Dining services provider on campus is using recyclable materials and working on reducing food waste.

Opfer discussed that NSC is giving out reusable cups at various events and giving discounts for using reusable materials at food/drink vendors.

8. MEMBER REPORTS **INFORMATION ONLY**

Martin on behalf of Patri for TMCC reported that at TMCC they are looking into open educational resources, collaborating with faculty for new fight song, and recently Joe Biden visited the campus.

Guinn mentioned that at UNR we have been very busy on campus and will have a better report in December.

Gutierrez reported that the recent HSI/MSI symposium went very well. Many senators were present and it was a successful collaboration with NSC. In athletic administration there is a new mascot, a coyote. Basketball will be starting soon. In the Spring there will be a speaker series starting (central park 5, Raymond Santana Jr./ February – continuing speaker series).

Patenaude discussed the, "Yes We can" collecting food items for the food pantry, incentivizing students with tangible items. At UNLV there was a major threat on October 16th that targeted black students and Bernie Sanders supporters, students are very upset about the incident. On October 1st there was an event as well. We have had conversations about protocols and measures that have been taken or can be taken (trainings, courses, education) to mitigate threats. This is challenging for student government in taking action, providing platforms for students to speak.

Molina reported that GPSA has not been very busy lately. We have been focusing on student involvement and social activities trying to get more grad student activities and bring more students in. We recently created operating policies to provide direction as we move forward.

Opfer reported that at NSC, we held our Día de Los Muertos event on campus, we are seeing more student involvement on campus and discounted health insurance on campus.

Alvarez reported that at NSC we are beginning to examine tobacco products on campus working toward a tobacco free campus. UNR is the only tobacco free campus in Nevada, getting something established on paper and a plan for tobacco free campus. Further mentioned the possibility of collaborative effort.

Guinn mentioned that at UNR, implementing a tobacco free campus policy required support from all avenues on campus to implement and there is still some push back, but take it little by little and making it a campus culture that is accepted.

Gutierrez mentioned that at CSN there are designated smoking areas on campus and they are working toward having culture of tobacco free on campus.

Martin reported that at TMCC this has not been something that has been discussed on campus. Right now, it is just more common courtesy but we do not really have any real input on the matter from the campus.

Opfer, we will continue to discuss tobacco free initiatives in future meetings.

Opfer reminded members to please be sure to hold representatives accountable and follow proxy procedures for NSA meeting attendance.

9. NEW BUSINESS **INFORMATION ONLY**

Opfer discussed that we will be adding transparency for fees, tobacco free campuses and DACA student concerns to future NSA meeting agendas. Opfer also mentioned that she will send emails regarding NSA meetings and agendas to NSA members.

Guinn reminded the members that our next meeting will be short as it runs immediately prior to BOR meetings.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT **INFORMATION ONLY**

No Public comment.

OPFER ADJOURNED MEETING AT 10:33 AM